

The Edwards Aquifer Authority 2017 Work Plan Summaries

Section	Conservation Measure	Science Committee Review
I	Applied Research	Methodology Review and Input
II	Water Quality Monitoring	Update with pending methodologies
	Biological Monitoring	

No review necessary for:

- 5.1.1 Refugia
- 5.1.2 Voluntary Irrigation Suspension Option Program
- 5.1.3 Regional Water Conservation Program
- 5.1.4 Critical Period (Stage V)
- 5.5.1 SAWS Aquifer Storage and Recovery
- FMA § 2.2 Program Management

I. Methodology Review and Input:

6.3.4 – Applied Research

Conduct research to fill data gaps and provide necessary information about the Covered Species to further the understanding of the systems and the Covered species. The data is utilized in the ecological model and will subsequently be used to inform the Adaptive Management Process.

2017 Applied Research Project Schedule

In 2015, the Applied Research Work Group evaluated the specific research needs to recommend a holistic Applied Research Project Schedule that takes into account the research necessary to better understand the Covered Species in order to achieve the EAHCP Biological Goals and Objectives. The Work Group report recommended the following projects for 2017:

1. Evaluate CSRFB life history, Phase II
2. SAV as FD habitat (shelter, prey habitat)
3. Effects of sedimentation on SAV, FD and CSRFB
4. Comal Springs dryopid beetle quantitative sampling techniques
5. Statistical analysis of data (systems memory/disturbance ecology)
6. Statistical analysis of data (species).

The approved approach is committed to fund the “*Evaluation of the Life History of the Comal Springs Riffle Beetle, Egg to Adult – Phase II*” and to conduct as much of the highest priority research designated for 2017 as the allocated budget allows.

II. Update with pending methodologies:

5.7.2 – Water Quality Monitoring

The goal of the water quality monitoring program is to detect water quality impairments that may negatively impact the listed species.

2017 Methodology:

Specific work plan is pending approval of the Water Quality Monitoring Work Group Report in June 2016.

6.3.1- Biological Monitoring

The purpose of the Biological Monitoring program is to monitor changes to habitat quality, availability and population abundance of the Covered Species that may result from Covered Activities and to collect data that can be used in the applied environmental research studies and provide data and information for the ecological model.

The Biological Monitoring program includes comprehensive sampling, any triggered Critical Period monitoring, any high flow triggered monitoring and any other specific sampling required by the EAHCP.

2017 Methodology

Specific work plan is pending approval of the Biological Monitoring Work Group Report in June 2016.